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THE METER

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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

A photograph of a diverse group of students, both men and women, dressed in formal business attire (suits, blouses, and dresses). They are seated in rows, facing towards the left side of the frame, suggesting they are attending a formal event or presentation. The lighting is somewhat dim, typical of an indoor event space.

***The Meter Endorses SGA
President, SGA Vice-President,
Mr. & Miss TSU candidates***

Staffer speaks on the complexity of being a black man

BY: KRIS CECIL
STAFF WRITER

It is 2008 and Marcus McGee, a recent high school graduate, clocks out of work from a gas station on Dickerson Road in Nashville.

Two men enter with weapons with intent to rob the store. McGee, 19, tried to run but was shot in the back. He was left for dead outside the gas station where he had worked for just three weeks. He had plans to attend college and was working to earn some extra money.

No one was ever arrested for this violent act against my former high-school football teammate.

Tennessee had the nation's fifth-highest rate of black homicides in 2008, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Violence Policy Center. Nashville, with 42 black murder victims, had a rate higher than the state overall, and in 2009 Nashville surpassed Memphis.

These statistics show me that as a black man I am the minority, sometimes considered an outcast, and according to some, a feared species because of a supposed threat I place on mankind. Now I wonder despite my future goals, is it possible for me not to be stereotyped as anything other than a threat?

Is this the same suspension that prompted George Zimmerman to murder 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, FL? MSNBC reported that Zimmerman repeatedly called police over the last 14 months warning of "suspicious persons."

Some neighbors described Zimmerman as "fixated on crime and focused on young black males." Others

have gone publically to justify Martin's murder because he was wearing a hoodie. A New Orleans police officer was suspended recently after posting comments on an online news story saying, "Act like a Thug Die like one!"

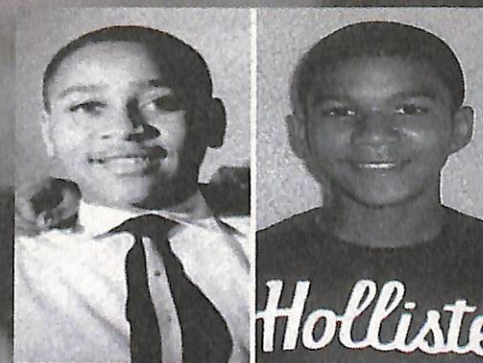
Information has surfaced that Martin was suspended days before his death from a North Miami-Dade high school for possession of an empty bag containing marijuana residue. The suspension is irrelevant to the investigation and could perhaps be someone's attempt to taint the teenager's image.

Many are comparing Martin's death with the brutal murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old murdered in 1955 for whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. It was dangerous for black boys then, and it still seems unsafe today. Remember the murder of Sean Bell, the New Yorker who was to be married the day before he was shot more than 50 times by New York police officers for simply reaching for his wallet.

The Sanford police have chalked this case up as self-defense, but who's to say it wasn't? Zimmerman was the one chasing a 17-year-old through a gated community with a 9-millimeter pistol. He's also heard screaming racial slurs on a recently released 911 tape.

As a black man the thing that really makes me nervous about all this, is from the pictures that have circulated of Martin, he looks like a harmless teenager that couldn't have weighed more than 160 pounds soaking wet. I could point out more suspicious looking characters with my eyes closed. It makes me wonder do I stand a chance as an inner city black man. Sometimes I think I don't.

Trayvon Martin



Endorsement for the 2012-2013 year

STAFF REPORT

For the annual SEC endorsements, the staff of The Meter conducted and recorded 10 interviews in 2 days. We asked each candidate six questions that would give us an idea of their characteristics and passion.

Between the candidates we chose, the common quality each possessed was their humbleness, which is a critical trait to have as a leader on this campus.

The decision was neither easy nor based on bias opinions. We chose the candidates we thought would best represent TSU.

Miss TSU ---- Danicia Hayes

In the Miss Tennessee State University category, it was difficult for the staff to choose an endorsement, because each candidate possessed the qualities of a great queen. Either way, TSU is in good hands.

We choose Hayes because she was the balance between her competitors; as Terra Strong is forceful and Myah Lipscomb is reserved. Hayes exemplifies what it means to be a campus queen.

It was a clear indication that she is approachable, humble, well



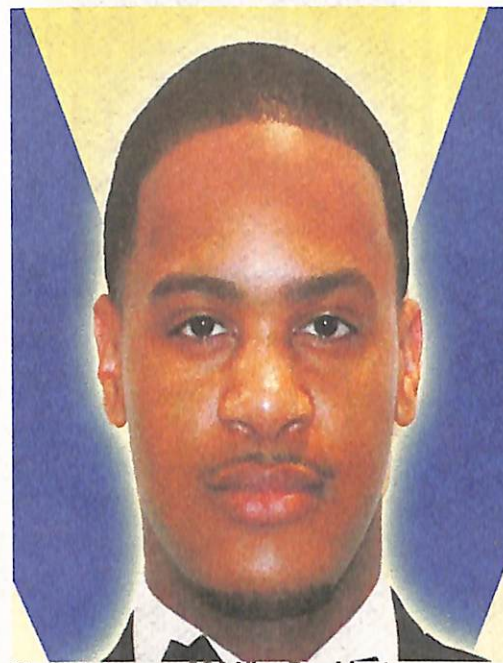
spoken, and a great representation of the school. Her platform, The Royal Blue, is realistic and reachable, whereas the other candidates' campaigns seem more like elaborate fantasies.

Mr. TSU---- Anthony Mize

Out of the two candidates, Mize

was the most humble and personable. Though Sidney Johnson ran a successful campaign and has been active since his freshmen year, Mize surpasses him with his involvement as a leader since he transferred to TSU.

His platform is practical and possesses the possibility to be completely executed.



SGA Vice President---- Courtney Lewis

For the vice president position, candidate Braun Wright was excluded from the endorsement process because she did not interview with The Meter. Lewis was chosen because she is passionate, determined, and has evidence that she

is a hard worker. Though the other candidate, Lasallus Tyus, had some good ideas and is a member of the Student Union Board of Governors, he is not ready for the position of SGA Vice President. He lacks experience in the House of Delegates and at the time of the interview did not know the alma mater. Being able to sing or state the alma mater is a crucial factor for anyone running for an SGA position, and as student, no matter how long you been here.

SGA President----Darion Banister

In his brief time in SGA, Banister has implemented several changes at the university, while not discrediting the current SGA Vice President, Shelby Rodgers.

Compared to the other two candidates, Banister appears the most humble. He has experience both as a student and as a member of SGA.

Although he struggled with the singing the alma mater, he pushed through showing his determination and tenacity. While David Rawles interviewed well, he didn't take the singing of the alma mater seriously, and acted as if it was a joke.

Current Miss. TSU gives advice to candidates

ASHLEIGH TAYLOR

MISS. TSU/ MISS. NBGA
HALL OF FAME

One of the busiest, most frustrating, anxiety driven and suspenseful times of the year is among us...ELECTION SEASON or SEC Week. Hopeful and Ambitious student leaders battle for coveted titles to make change and difference on the campus of Tennessee State University. Often times deluded by free food escapades, glitzy events and unique campaign teams, the reason for the season is lost. I have been a part

of two successful campaign teams and organized my own while at TSU. Here are some helpful hints to run a successful campaign.

1) Be Yourself! No one likes to be bombarded by the fake smile or conversation just to vote. If you were not speaking to students last semester, don't try to make up time now.

2) Plan for A, B, C, and D. Something can and will go wrong. It's inevitable that some aspect of campaigning will go into left field. It's important to recover strong as if nothing has happened.

3) Use resources. There is no need to spend a fortune on campaign materials. Fundraising is

your best friend in these situations. Also, calling upon family networks to donate in kind gifts. The power of social media is effective and free. Best Combination

4) Never let them see you sweat. Competition can be fierce! Sometimes people do whatever it takes to get the title. Play fair and don't let the naysayers get the best of you at any moment.

5) Have a strong team. Having adequate student support team is imperative for a successful campaign. You as a candidate can't be everywhere at all times. Trust your campaign team to spread the good news of why you are the best candidate.

6) Read the Operations manual...thoroughly. It is no Secret rules are made up on the spot. It is important that your team, campaign managers and yourself know the entire manual cover to cover. Ask questions always and every time.

7) Enjoy the week! You only get this opportunity once so enjoy it!

8) Know why you are running. You should be able to give a 30 second elevator speech in casual conversation that sums up why you are running, your platform, and what you plan to do. Campaign week is a job interview and TSU needs to hire the best candidates.

9) Cover the Campus. When planning campaign marketing think of every student. Try to place at least one poster in every academic building and dorm. Don't forget about the downtown campus, Humphries and apartments.

10) Put Your Best Foot Forward. People will appreciate a willing heart more than boastful one. Never feel entitled to a position. You could have been in SGA for several years leading up to a position, but lose it all because you felt entitled.

I hope these tidbits help all candidates run a successful campaign! Good Luck to Everyone and remember go hard or go home.

»Meet your candaidates for the 2012-2013 year



Name: Darion Banister
Classification: Junior
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Champaign, Illinois
Platform: C.H.A.N.G.E.



Name: Shelby Rogers
Classification: Junior
Major: Education/ Political Science
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Platform: Transforming Empowering Aspiring Multiplying



Name: David Rawles
Classification: Senior
Major: Business Administration (Supply Chain Management)
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Platform: Power To The People. The People Are The Power



Name: Braun Wright
Classification: Junior
Major: History and Africana Studies
Hometown: Somerset, NJ
Platform: Versatility



Name: Courtney Lewis
Classification: Junior
Major: Biology
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: Connecting the D.O.T.S.



Name: Lasallus Tyus II
Classification: Junior
Major: Business Administration (Marketing)
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Platform: Keep It 100



Name: Danicia Hayes
Classification: Junior
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: Follow the Royal Blue Road



Name: Myah Lipscomb
Classification: Junior
Major: Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary Medicine)
Hometown: Adelphi, MD



Name: Terra Strong
Classification: Senior
Major: Commercial Music, Business Administration minor
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
Platform: See yoU in me! Using our legacy to catapult us into the next 100 years



Name: Anthony Mize
Classification: Senior
Major: Mass Communication
Hometown: Dayton, OH
Platform: MACHO MIZE for Mr. TSU



Name: Sidney Johnson
Classification: Junior
Major: Business Administration (Supply Chain)
Hometown: Memphis, TN
Platform: See Yourself in ME... WE are LEGEND



Name: Kamary Gregory
Classification: Junior
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Dayton, OH
Platform: Transportation + Transformation = A Centennial Destination



Name: Kadijah Porter
Classification: Junior
Major: Biology/Chemistry
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: Preparing the Senior Class to change the world



Name: Coty Parker
Classification: Junior
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: Capital 100: Who's on Your Ballot



Name: Mia Black
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Business Administration (Real Estate & Urban Development)
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Platform: Leaving a Big Blue Legacy



Name: Salina Fountain
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Detroit, MI
Platform: To create a strategic networking convention to take my class to the next level in a business



Name: Alonzo Furtick
Classification: Freshmen
Major: Art
Hometown: Charlotte, NC
Platform: Destined for Difference: Evolving the Mental Imaged



Name: Whitney Griffin
Classification: Freshman
Major: Health Sciences (Physical Therapy)
Hometown: Augusta, GA
Platform: Every act is an act of self-definition.



Name: Tacoshia Rose
Classification: Freshman
Major: Business Administration (Supply Chain)
Hometown: Memphis, TN
Platform: Unite the Sophomore Class



Name: Tiera Eggleston
Classification: Freshman
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Platform: Investing in T.S.U Tradition Success and Unity in the Next 100



Name: Thommye' Davis
Classification: Freshman
Major: History
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: You Have A F.R.I.E.N.D. in me



Name: Ta'Bron Nettles
Classification: Freshman
Major: Accounting and Fashion Merchandising
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Platform: Building Sophomore Leadership

No

Photo

Name: Sumit Shukla
Classification: Freshman
Platform:

No

Photo

Name: Aujel Hudson
Classification: Freshman
Major: Music Education
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Platform: Sophomore Representation, With Dedication and No Hesitation



Name: Michael Bethea
Classification: Senior
Major: Electrical Engineering
Hometown: Lexington, SC
Platform: Bridge Builder.
Bridging the Gap between Students
and Administration



Name: Devon Breedlove
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: The Heartbeat of
TSU



Name: Brandon P. Haskins
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Mass Communications
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Platform: Motivate and Obtain a
Vision with Excellence (M.O.V.E)



Name: Brett-Alexander Jackson II
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Major: Architectural Engineering (Minor in
Law)
Platform: Building Higher Standards through
Performance, Impression, and Exposure (P.I.E)



Name: Markeil Lewis
Classification: Freshman
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Lafayette, LA



Name: Lasallus Tyus II
Classification: Junior
Major: Business
Administration (Marketing)
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Platform: Keep It 100



Name: Samantha Thomas
Classification: Freshman
Major: Dental Hygiene
Hometown: Nashville, TN
Platform: Seeking Alternative
Methods while Breaking down
Administrative Mindsets



Name: Michael Johnson Jr.
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Flint, MI
Platform: 4G Elite

» Thoughts from the Chair from the SEC Chair



*"I expect a week full of thrills and excitement from the candidates for SGA 2012 – 2013! Just meeting with them and discussing different things, I expect their campaign week to be the platform for which the school soars on for the Centennial year. The Student Election Commission has spent countless hours preparing for this week so that the school can see the importance of selecting efficient leaders for the upcoming school year."----***Troy Lambert, senior, computer science/art major from Detroit**

Celebrity Basketball Slam Jam

By: Mike Cutris
Sports Editor

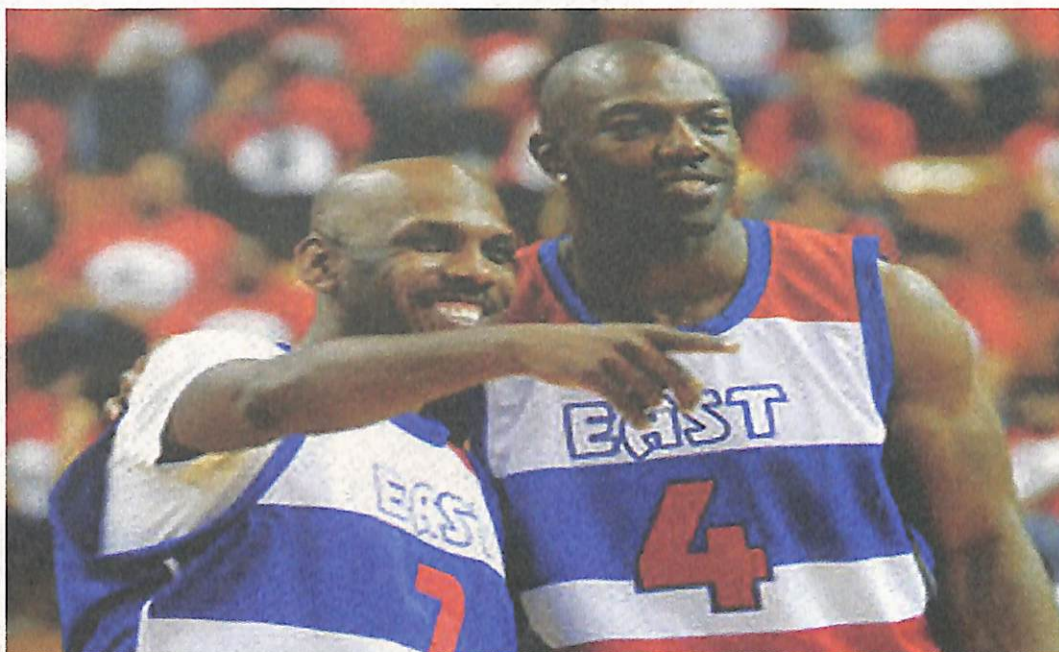
TSU and the Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie Foundation will host the second annual Celebrity Basketball Slam Jam on Friday April 13 at 7 p.m. in the Gentry Center.

Those expected to participate in the game are Tennessee Titans Michael Griffin, Jared Cook, Marc Mariani, Jason McCourty and Gerald McRath. Cromartie's Philadelphia Eagles teammates, DeSean Jackson and Jeremy Maclin will attend along with former Titans quarterback Vince Young.

Tennessee State point guard Wil Peters is expected to play as well as former Vanderbilt cornerback Casey Howard and safety Sean Richardson.

Rodgers-Cromartie, the Arizona Cardinals' 2008 first-round pick out of TSU, is set to enter his second season as cornerback for the Eagles. His foundation provides programs for disadvantaged kids through enhancing educational, life and athletic skills.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door for adults. Tickets for children ages 12 and under are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. To purchase tickets, call the TSU ticket office at 615-963-5841.



Bishop Walker and Terrell Owens pose for a picture at the DRC Foundation Celebrity Slam Jam at Tennessee State's Gentry Center in 2011.



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